Category in Janakpuri exchange is 4·1·94·

(b) No, Sir, All applications registered in Janakpuri exchange upto 4-1-94 save been cleared. Few cases involving are a transfer from other exchanges were pending and these also have been cleared now· Telephones are being provided subject to areas being technically feasible.

(c) All applications upto 4·1·94 have been cleared·

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

Irregularities in the bids for cellular phone system

380· SHRI S· S· AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the series of reports which appeared in the Statesman on February 11 and 12, 1995, highlighting the irregularities in deciding the bids for operation of cellular phone system in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any rebuttal to the said reports;

(d) if not, the contents thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of steps taken, if any, to ensure transparency in the process of considering and finalisation of tender bids for cellular phones and other modernisation programmes of DOT in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegations made in the said reports are not correct·

(c) No, Sir·

(d) Does not arise in view of (C)·

(e) The criteria of evaluation laid down by the Deptt· of Telecom· as examined in detail by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the basis of petitions made by some of the unsuccessful bidders· The Hon'ble Courts had upheld the criteria for evaluation and selection· The orders given by the Courts were duly implemented while awarding the contract.

(f) The parameters for evaluation of tenders have been clearly specified in the bid document.

Villages without post offices

381. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are there in each State without Post Offices, state-wise,

(b) how many Post Offices were closed down by Government in each state in the past, State-wise;

(c) how many were rural Post Offices among them, State-wise;

(d) by when, each village in the country will have a Post Office;

(e) whether Government would employ jobless educated youth as part-time postal employees in those villages without Post Offices; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given in the Statement. (*See* below).